



Basic Computer Terminology

Tutorial #1

Computer Terminology

To find out more computer terminology go to: <http://foldoc.org>. Here are a few common words that you should get accustomed to when using the computer:

- **ALERT** A message sent by the computer to explain a malfunction, newly connected device or recent updates
- **APPLICATION** A software program on your computer/Internet in which you use to do a task (ex. Microsoft Publisher)
- **BOOT** To start up a computer
- **BUG** An error that causes the computer to malfunction
- **CLICK** Selecting an object on your computer by using your mouse
- **CRASH** A malfunction where the computer freezes and you need to boot your computer again
- **CURSOR** The arrow that shows where your mouse is located
- **DATABASE** A searchable/sorted list of information in the style of a search engine
- **DIAL-UP** Is a slower Internet service that goes through the telephone wires. A cable connects from the telephone modem to the computer. This type of Internet service is being phased out by high speed Internet
- **DOUBLE CLICK** To quickly press the mouse twice and while doing so, not moving the mouse
- **DOWNLOAD** To put a file/software/program onto your computer
- **DRAG** Moving the mouse while holding the button (left or right) down to move an object to a different location
- **FREEZE** A malfunction that causes the cursor to freeze
- **GIG** A gigabyte (1024 bytes)
- **HARD DRIVE** Main storage device on a computer

- **IM (instant messaging)** The ability to send messages instantly to another person in real time conversation that is through text or a combination of video/text
- **KILOBYTE** 1024 megabytes
- **LINK (hyperlink)** Is the web address of a website. It usually consists of “http://” or “www.” at the beginning, a alphabetical/numerical name, and ends with either “.com,” “.ca,” or “.org” etc.
- **MENU** Consists of a list of programs, folders and files on the computer
- **OPERATING SYSTEM** Software that is designed to control the computer (ex. Windows XP)
- **PC (personal computer)** It is often commonly used in reference to windows software computers
- **RAM (random access memory)** Makes the computer go faster
- **UPLOAD** To bring a file from one computer to another through the Internet
- **Wi-Fi** Allows users the ability to connect their devices to a secured or unsecured network for wireless access on the Internet